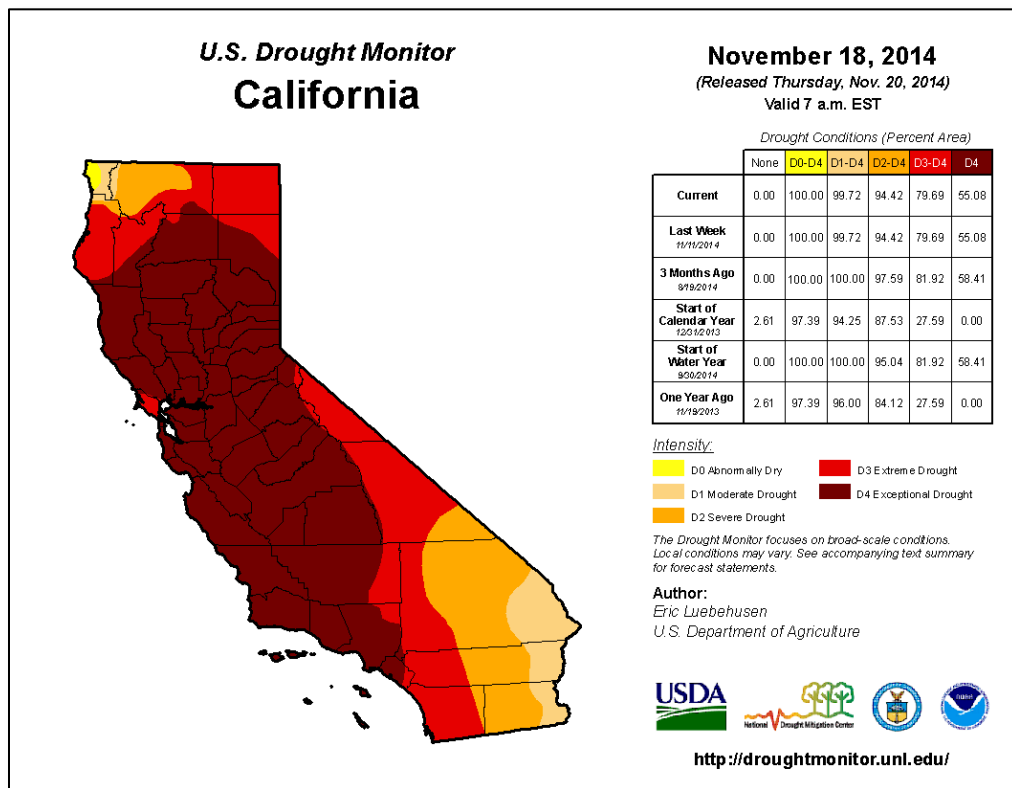


November 20 Weather and Climate Updates

Drought Monitor (Weekly Update)



The weekly update of the Drought Monitor product shows that no changes to our drought status have occurred in the past week. Over 55% of the state of California remains in D4 – Exceptional Drought, including nearly all of the San Francisco Bay Area (except Marin County). While we have experienced a multi-year rainfall deficit across much of the state, this map is not just based on lack of rainfall. It also incorporates impacts: on stream/river levels, groundwater, mountain snowpack, reservoir levels, soil moisture, fire danger, and societal impacts that have been observed. The map updates weekly on Thursdays and you may find the latest map at: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> and click on California to see more detailed info for the state.



Locally in the Bay Area, conditions look like the below image:

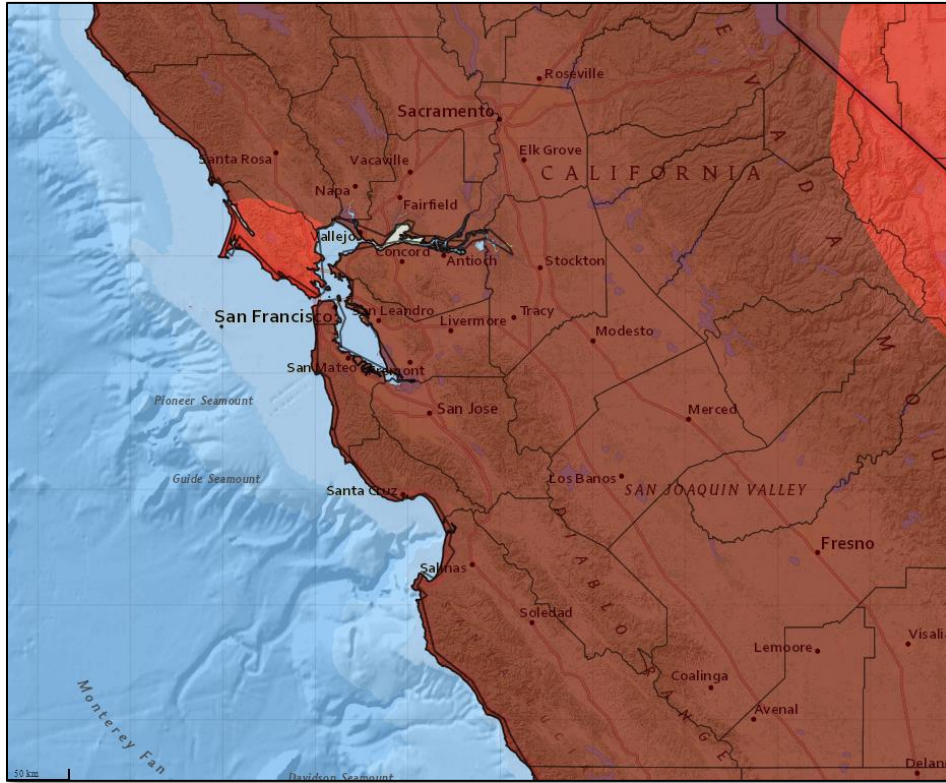


Image above created using <http://preview.weather.gov/edd/> <http://go.usa.gov/sAQ4>

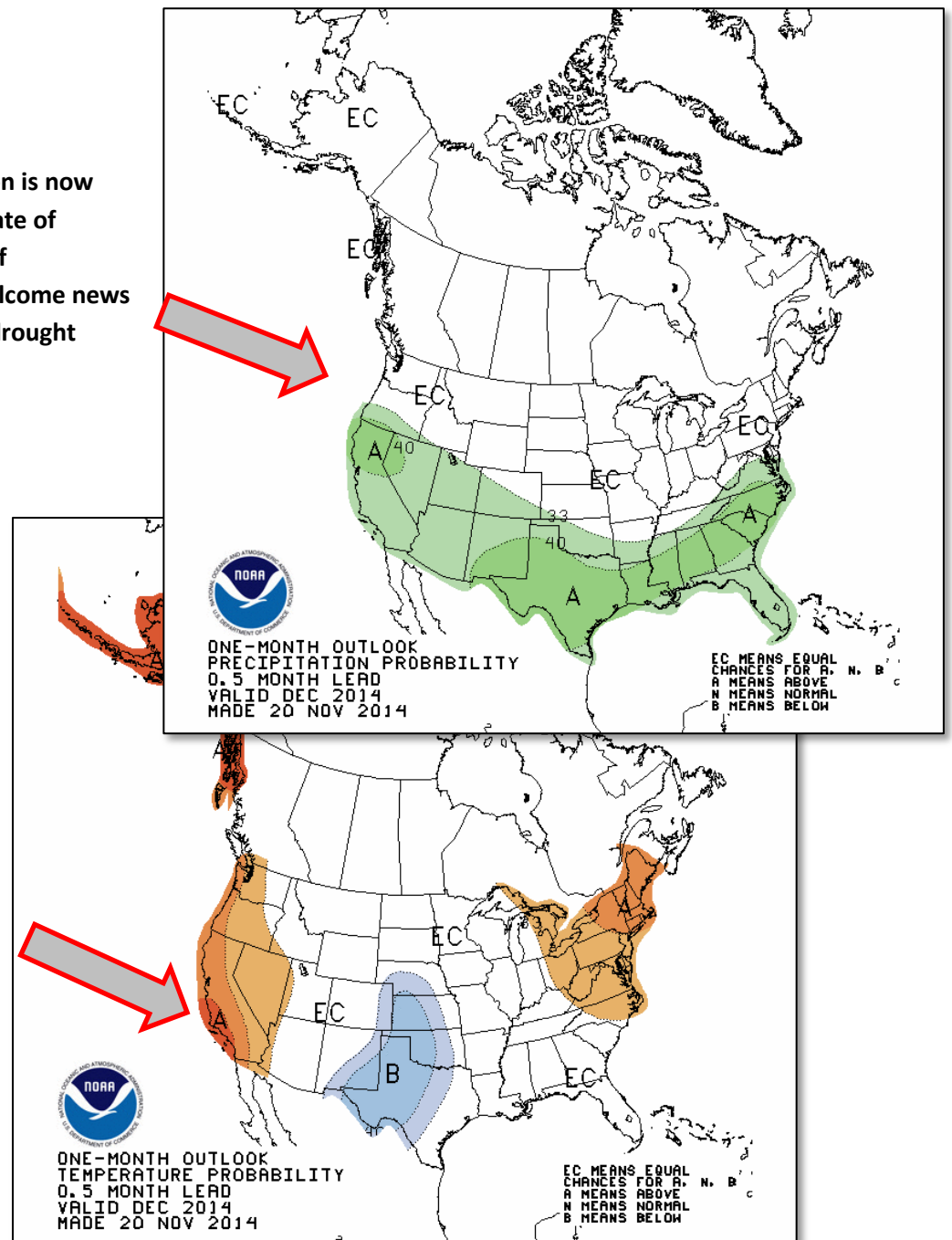
NWS Monterey Drought Resource Page: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/droughtmtr.php>

Long Term Temperature and Precipitation Outlook Update (Monthly Update)

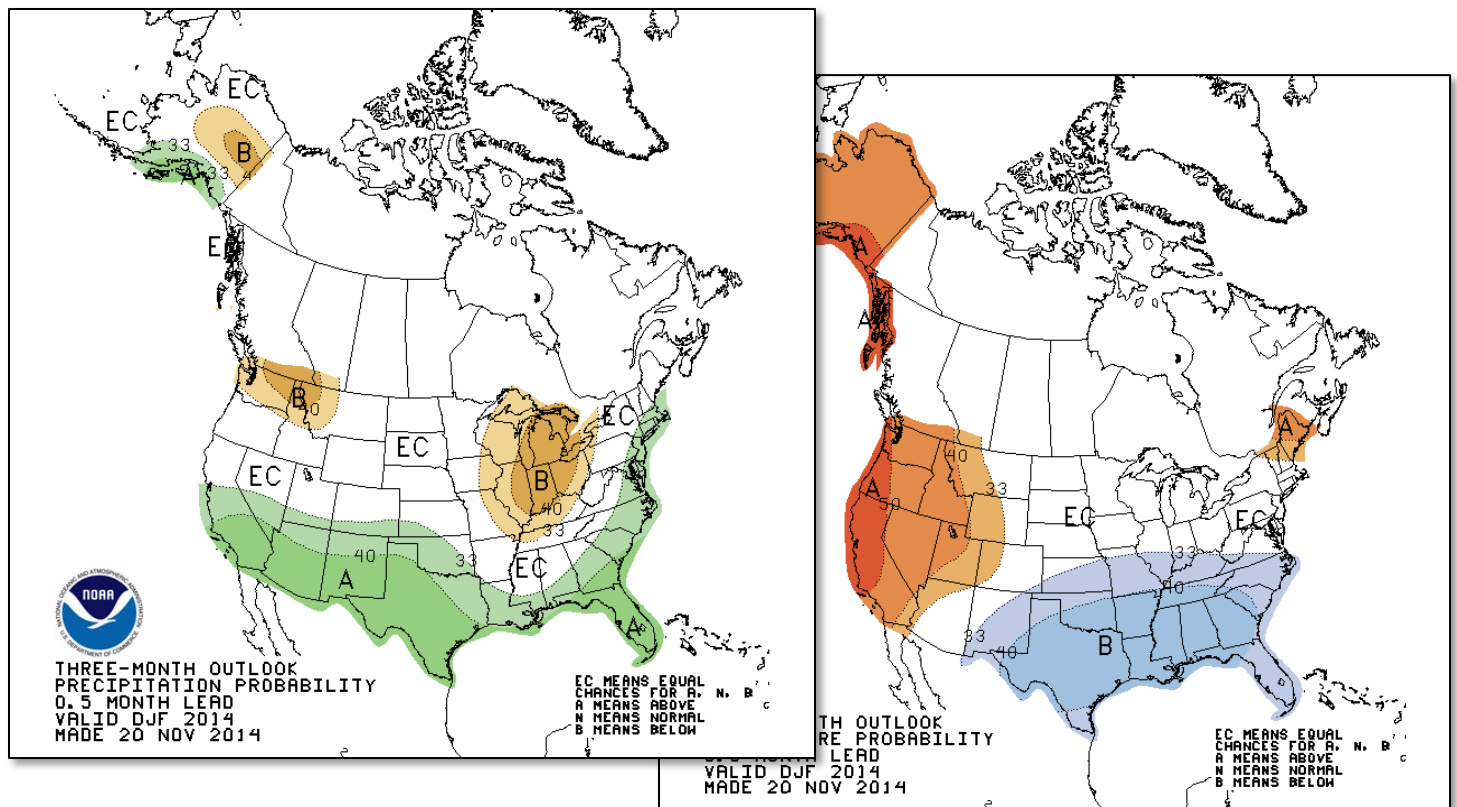
The latest update of the monthly and winter season (December-February) Temperatures and precipitation outlook has been issued today from the Climate Prediction Center. Of particular note is the updated outlook for December 2014.

Above normal precipitation is now expected for the entire state of California for the month of December. This is very welcome news and will help to ease the drought conditions statewide.

Temperatures during the month of December are also expected to be above normal for the entire state of California – continuing the recent trend of this year being one of the warmest on record for many locations in the state.



Seasonal (December-February) Outlook Update (Monthly Update)



Shown above are the **Seasonal (December-February) outlooks**. Note that for the **winter season** as a whole, Above Normal precipitation is favored for Central and Southern California. **This is a change from the previous forecast.**

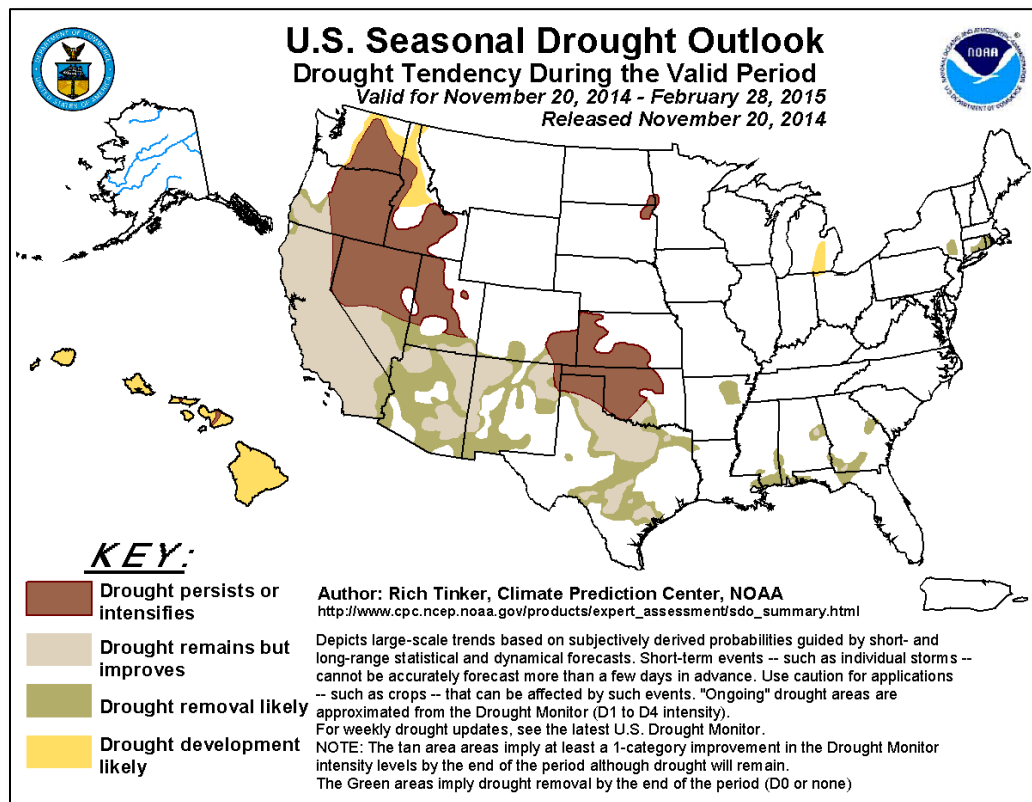
An **Equal Chance** forecast is expected for the remainder of the state. This means that there is an equal likelihood of near, above, or below normal precipitation over the course of the entire **winter season**. There is not a clear signal for forecasting rainfall amounts, and so all outcomes remain equally possible for the upcoming winter season.

For temperatures, the most likely outcome this **winter season** will be warmer than normal.

All images are from <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/>

Seasonal Drought Outlook (Monthly Update)

Of particular importance is the expectation for changes to drought conditions over the upcoming winter season. The image below depicts the updated outlook:



The new update shows that the drought is expected to remain this winter season – but improvement is expected across the whole state of California. Following such significantly dry winter seasons, any rainfall that approaches normal this year will be much welcome and will help to improve drought conditions. This image is also available at

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.html